Autism Facts:

Definition: a developmental disorder that appears in the first 3 years of life and affects the brain's normal development of social and communicative skills.

The cause of autism is not yet totally known. Generics seem to have a lot to do with it though.

Autism effects boys 3 times more than girls.

The symptoms appear early in a child's development. The symptoms include: having trouble pretend playing and interacting with others.

Regressive autism is where a child progresses normally and then starts to forget the words or things he or she already knew.

Children should have routine testing done by their pediatrician. If concerns continue from parent or doctor, further testing should be done.

There are some treatments for autism, including some medicines. However, there is no medicine that treats the underlying cause of autism.

Gifted Minds:

Although having autism can be looked at as a disadvantage, to lots of children it is a gift. Children who have some form of autism, often have above average level of intelligence and can be highly focused in a certain area they found interesting. In the book, the main character, Christopher has autism and is highly gifted in math. In the book he takes a very high level math test and passes with an A. He's very driven in math and throughout the book explains complex math problems when he is stressed. He knows all the prime numbers all the way to 7,057, which is how Christopher labels the chapters in the book. He also has an amazing memory. He can pause, fast-forward rewind anything in his mind, such as a memory. In the book, Christopher has a strong hatred for the color anything the color yellow. Christopher also can't stand to be touched. His own parents can't hug or touch him in any way other than touching hands. When a policemen tries to get him to stand up and uses his hand to grab his arm, Christopher hits the policemen. Christopher doesn't feel that there is anything wrong with him. He in fact believes most of the world is dumb.